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Celebrity pg 18

Rumours swirl over Twain's escort

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metro

VANCOUVER • WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2008 metronews.ca

Comment pg 8

Canada needs to retire Her Majesty

Mountie in court for DUI charges

RICHMOND An RCMP officer who was allegedly involved in an off-duty drunk-driving crash last year made his first court appearance in Richmond yesterday.

He's one of five Lower Mainland RCMP officers currently facing drunk-driving charges.

Const. Kulwant Singh Malhi, 41, was arrested for impaired driving, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle and failure to remain at the scene after allegedly hitting two cars in the early hours of Oct. 20, 2007.

After witnesses called police to notify them of a man driving erratically, officers allegedly followed Malhi from Richmond to Delta where he was stopped in the driveway of a home.

Malhi, allegedly off-duty at the time and driving an unmarked police car, is suspended without pay.

METRO VANCOUVER

Dining duet

New culinary lights

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

At Lumiere's kitchen, the executive chefs of DB Bistro Vancouver and Lumiere, Stephane Istel, left, and Dale MacKay, put finishing touches on their menus. Both restaurants reopen to the public tonight. Story, page 3

Grit leadership to Ignatieff as Rae bows out

POLITICS Michael Ignatieff has seized his long-sought prize — the Liberal leadership, raising fresh questions about the future of the opposition coalition that has vowed to defeat the minority Conservatives next month.

The fate of the coalition will be among the pressing issues facing Ignatieff as he prepares to take over the leadership of a party battered by cash woes, two lost elections and dismal poll numbers.

The Toronto-area Liberal MP was assured of the leadership yesterday after rival Bob Rae — the last candidate in the race — dropped out, conceding he didn't have enough support to win in the party's stripped down contest that left little time to sign up new backers.

Ignatieff, a runner-up in the 2006 contest that saw Stéphane Dion elected party leader, could take over as "interim" leader as early as today. He won't be ratified as full-time leader until the party's convention in May in Vancouver.

The Liberals are in a rush to have a new leader in place by Jan. 27, when a key budget vote could see the minority Conservatives defeated, sparking a new election or paving the way for a Liberal-led coalition to take power.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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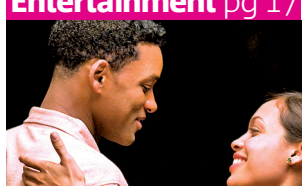
Entertainment pg 17



Smith shy with love scenes

Sports pg 9

Petitclerc wins Lou Marsh

VANOC tightens belt

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

VANOC may use a smaller workforce than initially planned to host the 2010 Games, Olympic organizers said yesterday, as they tightened their belts in the face of a global economic downturn.

"The exercise that we're in right now is looking at every position — every job, every location, every venue — down to the last person to make sure that we don't over commit," said VANOC CEO John Furlong yesterday, following the final board of directors meeting of 2008.

"Every additional person represents a cost. This is not the time to have that kind of luxury."

At the meeting, VANOC's board approved in principle a revised budget that still needs to be approved by government and will be made public in late January after the board's next meeting.

The board also asked management to re-examine three areas within that budget — the look of the Games, accommodation along the Sea-to-Sky corridor, and the number of employees needed to host the Games.

Furlong said the revision will probably result in a smaller workforce, but the layoff of current employees is not likely.

Jack Poole, who was re-elected chair of the board, said the organization has not yet been impacted directly by the economic downturn, but stressed that the situation is "nervous" and demands caution and diligence.

Medal prototypes approved

- VANOC's board of directors also approved the prototypes for the Olympic and Paralympic gold, silver and bronze medals. The medals will be taken under lock-and-key to Lausanne, Switzerland, for approval by the International Olympic Committee. The medals will be unveiled in 2009.

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'Tis the season to get out and walk
Residents of an East Vancouver neighbourhood are asking people interested in their festive light displays to "use (their) feet to see our street." The displays are drawing increasingly large crowds resulting in traffic congestion and even road rage. **CBC.CA/BC**

Local

2010 events revealed
Vancouver 2010 Olympic ticket buyers who participated in a lottery will find out today what events they'll get to watch. Charges started appearing on credit cards 10 days ago, but buyers weren't told what events they've been awarded. Ticket buyers who participated in the initial round of sales also get first dibs on any unsold seats Friday. METRO VANCOUVER

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News in brief

CHARGES A female teacher at St. Thomas More Collegiate has been charged with sexual assault and sexual exploitation against a male student, RCMP said yesterday.

VIDEO A video has sprung up on YouTube showing a 19-year-old man videotaping an alleged street race he was participating in while driving through Burnaby at 240 km/h, CBC News Online reports. Police said the video could be used as evidence to implicate the drivers.

DEATH A 59-year-old North Delta man died after he was struck by a vehicle while crossing Nicholson Road yesterday. Delta police said the man was crossing mid-block. Weather and poor lighting may have been a factor in the collision.

METRO VANCOUVER

metronews.ca
What's online today.
Video Jon Stewart tackles Ottawa's political showdown at **metronews.ca/canada.**

Lumiere's reopening boosts image

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

A Vancouver culinary landmark reopens its doors today under a new, world-renowned head chef, a milestone that helps establish the city as an international culinary destination, the restaurant's owner says.

Lumiere and the new DB Bistro Moderne, a New York-based franchise owned by chef Daniel Boulud — who will operate both kitchens — will start serving dinners tonight.

While Boulud will oversee the restaurants from New York where he runs Daniel, executive chefs Stephane Istel and Dale MacKay will run the kitchens in Vancouver.

David Sidoo, who co-owns the adjacent Kitsilano restaurants, said yesterday that adding Boulud to the team stepped Vancouver up another level in the culinary scene.

"It's really exciting for the city to embrace a real top chef in Daniel, and it compliments the city really well," he said, adding that reservations are streaming in.

He said Boulud has redesigned Lumiere's menu with a three-course menu under $100, to make the restaurant more accessible. "It's not just a one-time event you have to save up for."

Lumiere, which has been closed for renovations since June, was started by Rob Feenie, whose other restaurant, Feenie's, was in the space now occupied by DB Bistro.

Feenie left the restaurants last year in part amid rumours he felt he'd been pushed out.

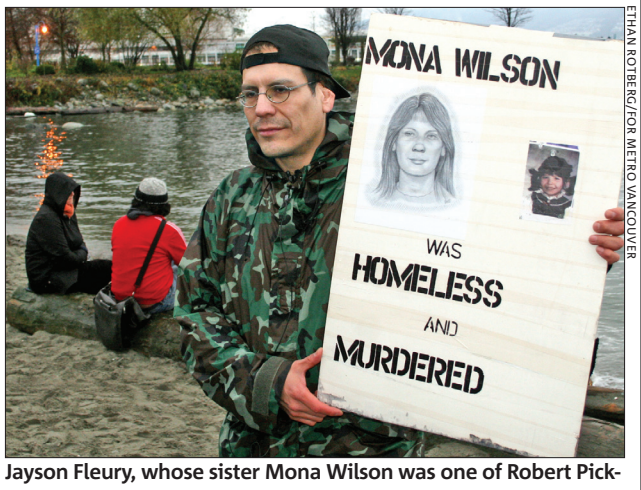
Pickton conviction anniversary

ETHAN ROTBERG
for Metro Vancouver

Only five people turned out for a memorial at Crab Park in Vancouver marking the one-year anniversary of serial killer Robert Pickton's conviction.

Jayson Fleury, whose sister Mona Wilson was one of the six women Pickton was convicted of murdering, said there is no closure.

"We are looking for accountability," Fleury said. "There are still a lot of unanswered questions."



ETHAN ROTBERG/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Jayson Fleury, whose sister Mona Wilson was one of Robert Pickton's victims, at a memorial rally at Crab Park yesterday.

Mayor's action team set to get homeless off streets, into shelter

PLAN A 13-member action team will look at expanding shelter spaces and transitional housing to help get homeless people off Vancouver streets, Mayor Gregor Robertson said yesterday.

There are roughly 1,600 people living on city streets, said Robertson, who made addressing Vancouver's homeless situation his top campaign promise.

"Urgency is what this is all about," said Robertson. "The huge number of people who are living in our streets requires us to do more than simply wait for the long-term housing to be built.

"I don't want to see anybody die in the street this winter, and as the weather turns colder, that is a serious possibility."

As part of yesterday's news conference, Robertson announced the First United Church had agreed to remain open all night, seven days a week, for the winter.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

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On average, 390 children under the age of 14 die every year from preventable injuries and 25,500 are hospitalized, according to Safe Kids Canada, a national child-injury prevention organization linked with the Hospital for Sick Children. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

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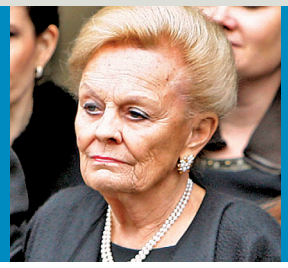

Service for media founder

Loretta Rogers, left, leaves a funeral service in Toronto yesterday for her late husband, Ted Rogers. Rogers, president and CEO of Rogers Communications, died Dec. 2 at the age of 75. REUTERS

B.C. police agree to take old Tasers out of service

British Columbia's municipal police chiefs have unanimously agreed to pull from service and test all Tasers purchased before Jan. 1, 2006, the province's public safety minister and solicitor general said yesterday.

According to John van Dongen, the stun guns are being tested to ensure they generate electrical currents that are accurate with what their manufacturers advertises.

The announcement was made shortly after the RCMP said it was conducting similar tests on its Tasers nationally.

A CBC News and Radio-Canada investigation found some Tasers delivered a higher level of electricity than that promised by their manufacturers.

Dongen said a standard for regular calibration of Tasers will be set for municipal forces, and the RCMP in B.C. has also been asked to comply.

In the meantime, the Braidwood Commission, started after Polish immigrant Robert Dziekanski died shortly after being Tasered, continues to examine the use of the weapons.

METRO VANCOUVER

Bestiality, suicide questions OK for potential cops, Halifax decides

POLYGRAPH Allowing off-duty police to run polygraph tests for the force may be a conflict of interest, city officials say, but the controversial tests themselves will not change.

Applicants to police and fire departments must undergo polygraph screenings that include questions about having sex with animals and suicide.

The tests were contracted out to Integrity Personnel Screening, a company owned by two Halifax cops.

METRO CANADA

News in brief

ONTARIO In the supermarket and even out for a stroll, Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty was pestered over the furor his government created with a plan to limit teen drivers to having no more than one teen passenger.

McGuinty said that's why he gave in earlier this week and scrapped the move.

SURPLUS Despite a slump in world oil prices, the Newfoundland and Labrador government said yesterday it expects to finish the current fiscal operating year with a surplus of roughly $1.27 billion, CBC News Online reports.

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Guildford Town Centre
Mayfair Shopping Centre
Metropolis at Metrotown
Oakridge Centre
Richmond Centre

Ukrainian coalition back in power

Ukraine's pro-Western governing coalition, rooted in the 2004 Orange Revolution, was reinstated yesterday after months of deadlock, with Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko likely to remain in her job. REUTERS

World/Business

India **Celebrating Eid al-Adha**

JAYANTA SHAW/REUTERS

Indian Muslims pray together to mark Eid al-Adha on a busy road in Mumbai yesterday. Muslims around the world celebrate Eid al-Adha to mark the end of the hajj.

Greek rioters target parliament

Riot police battled protesters outside Greece's parliament and in Athens suburbs yesterday, while opposition socialists called for the conservative government to quit in order to end the worst civil unrest in decades.

Rows of riot police squared off with demonstrators for more than an hour outside the parliament building before firing tear gas to disperse the crowd in fresh violence triggered by the shooting of a 15-year-old boy by police.

Bands of young protesters regrouped and threw stones at police, chanting: "Let parliament burn!"

On the fourth day of violence, protests spread to the Athens suburbs after the funeral of the boy, Alexandros Grigoropoulos, whose killing Saturday triggered Greece's worst riots in decades, fanned by discontent over government and a slowing economy.

Emergency talks

- Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis, whose party has a one-seat majority, held emergency talks with the president and opposition leaders to urge them to close ranks against the rioters.

More than 5,000 people clad in black gathered at the cemetery, many chanting: "Cops, Pigs, Murderers!"

As the boy's flower-covered white coffin was being buried, protesters clashed with police outside and one officer fired shots in the air to disperse an angry crowd.

His killing touched a raw nerve among young Greeks, who have become outraged by years of political scandals and rising levels of poverty and unemployment, which have worsened under the global economic downturn.

REUTERS

Happiness not about economy for women

STUDY Men are happier with money, while women find greater joy in relationships with their children, coworkers and bosses, a new global survey reveals.

The online survey of 28,153 people in more than 51 countries by global marketing and information firm Nielsen found that as the world grapples with a recession and financial markets remain volatile, many people are reminding themselves that money can't buy happiness.

The Nielsen happiness study found that globally, women are happier than men in 48 of the 51 countries surveyed in April 2008, and only in Brazil, South Africa and Vietnam were men found to be happier than women.

"Because they are happier with non-economic factors, women's happiness is more recession-proof," Nielsen vice-president of consumer research Bruce Paul said in a statement. REUTERS

News in brief

PAKISTAN U.S. President George W. Bush said yesterday the United States has made it clear to Pakistan that it will do what is necessary to protect American soldiers and civilians. Tensions have cropped up between the two countries over U.S. strikes in pursuit of militants along the Afghan border region. REUTERS

Business

TSX slides on central bank's recession talk

Toronto's main stock index fell yesterday as the Bank of Canada's acknowledgment that the country is entering a recession hit heavily weighted financial shares, while lower oil prices weighed on some energy stocks.

The comments managed to sideswipe shares of banks and insurers given their close link to the economy, which sent the financial index down 5.34 per cent and stripped it of all the gains recorded in the previous session.

Bank of Canada cuts interest rate

- The central bank cut its interest rate more aggressively than expected, lowering the overnight target rate by three-quarters of a percentage point to 1.5 per cent.

The slide followed the market's 450-point rally Monday and extended a pattern that has been firmly in place for months, where big gains are almost always followed by triple-digit losses.

The S&P/TSX composite index closed down 169.56 points, or 1.98 per cent, at 8,397.56. REUTERS

Telecom profits to be flatter

FORECAST Profits for the telecom industry will become flatter in the face of a worsening economy and new competition in the wireless market, according to a forecast yesterday by the Conference Board of Canada.

The outlook forecast annual combined profits of about $7 billion between 2008 and 2011. The board had calculated that industry profits for 2006 and 2007 were $5.6 billion and $6.5 billion, respectively.

At the forefront of the industry's woes is the collapse of the BCE buyout, which was derailed after KPMG said the deal would leave BCE insolvent.

REUTERS

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4711 Kingsway

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Coquitlam Centre

101 - 3278 Westwood St.

5 - 3000 Lougheed Hwy.

2700B Barnet Hwy.

22 - 2988 Glen Dr.

2 - 901 Lougheed Hwy.

New Westminster

Royal City Centre

North Vancouver

Capilano Mall

127 - 1199 Lynn Valley Rd.

1295 Marine Dr.

1748 Lonsdale Ave.

1392 Main St.

Richmond

Aberdeen Centre

Admiralty Centre Mall

Ironwood Mall

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Comment & Views

Let's retire the Queen

TheWestView

Paul Sullivan
Journalist & media consultant

With apologies to Paul McCartney ... Her Majesty's a pretty nice girl, but why is she running my country?

As I've watched the remarkable events of the past week unfold, the most remarkable was the spectacle of Stephen Harper, hat in hand, tugging his forelock in the general direction of Michaëlle Jean, Mrs. Windsor's representative in Ottawa.

You're familiar with Mrs. Windsor? That nice old lady in London with the corgis and the celebrity grandchildren? Her Majesty?

There hasn't been a lot of talk about the suitability of that exchange; I guess because most of us are relieved that Ms. Jean, a former Radio-Canada reporter with not one iota of experience in governance, just granted the prime minister's wish, and Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition doesn't get to run the country, at least not yet.

But why do Mrs. Windsor and her envoy still run the country? Until last week, they have been little more than glorified lawn ornaments. Inviting them to your charity garden party adds instant class. But what if Ms. Jean, who probably doesn't like Mr. Harper any more than Mr. Harper likes her, had decided to give the reins of power to Stéphane Dion and the balance of power to Chief Blochead Gilles Duceppe?

For one thing, we'd hear a lot more squawking about how it's time to end this

Here's what we need to do: Immediately, as a nation, we need to grow up.

outdated, ridiculous subservience to Prince Charles' Mom. Instead, a grateful nation has decided to put aside any qualms about Ms. Jean, her former French citizenship, her rumoured separatist leanings, her absurd appointment as the Queen's representative, never mind the innate, fundamental absurdity of the Queen herself.

So what happens in January if Her Majesty's Loyal Etc. try to stick it to Stephen one more time? Back he goes, gripping his forelock, to visit Ms. Jean, and she informs him that "we are not amused," and turns the government over to Michael or Rae and their little dog Jack? She can do that! She's Mrs. Windsor's envoy. Mrs. Windsor runs the country!

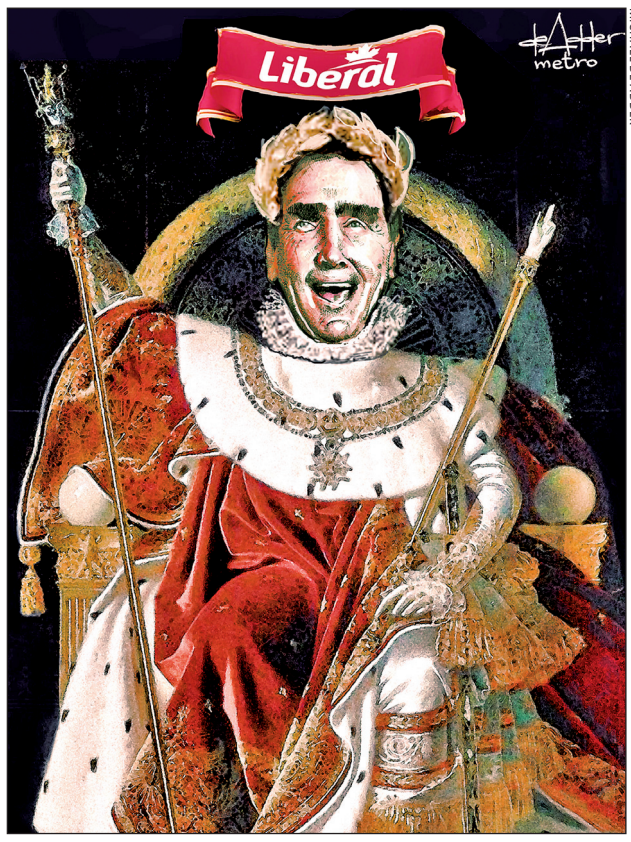
I simply can't believe we're still letting this happen. Here's what we need to do: Immediately, as a nation, we should grow up.

Then, we should send Ms. Jean back to Radio-Canada, tell Mrs. Windsor that it's time to retire as the Queen of Canada, thanks for the memories. Then we elect a president at large (as everyone mistakenly believes they vote for the prime minister anyway), while preserving the parliamentary democracy that we've come to know and love.

We do this through proportional representation, so we get the parties and the policies we want exactly in proportion to the popular vote. Now that's democracy.

And God Save Mrs. Windsor for another day.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Word on the street: What's the best holiday gift you've ever received?

Olivia Schnapansky
age 21, Abbotsford

A: My family came from Toronto and it was a surprise. I walked into the room and my whole body was tingling and I was so happy."

Al Flojo
age 27, Vancouver

A: My Christmas gift this year, snowboarding lessons from my girlfriend at Cypress Mountain. I'm really trying to get into snowboarding.

Jen Seymour
age 21, Abbotsford

A: An engagement ring. We were in Whistler on Christmas Eve in a chocolate shop and it was snowing. And I didn't know it was coming.

Summer Hodder
age 28, Toronto

A: I got a handmade book of memories, quotes and photos that I otherwise wouldn't have had.

Letters

Thank goodness for women's voices on politics

Until recently, it was unusual to see women writing in the Comments section under regional and national media print and online political stories. That has changed, and now we see some thoughtful comments from women in among mostly male comments. I say thank goodness. It's about time that women spoke up — after all they are about 50 per cent of eligible voters.

Too many women stayed away from the polls this last October election — I don't expect that to happen in those numbers next election as women realize they can make a difference.

DON WILSON, MASSTOWN, N.S.

Election worth the price tag

At this point, the Liberal-NDP coalition will try to take power, almost certainly no matter what, on the principle that they can.

If this is allowed to proceed, every election which fails to give a majority will become a free-for-all. Let's go to the polls and let the people have their say — Tory or a Liberal-NDP-Bloc government. The cost of another election is small for getting a government which was actually elected by the people.

DAMIAN KANAREK, TORONTO

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: vancouverletters@metronews.ca
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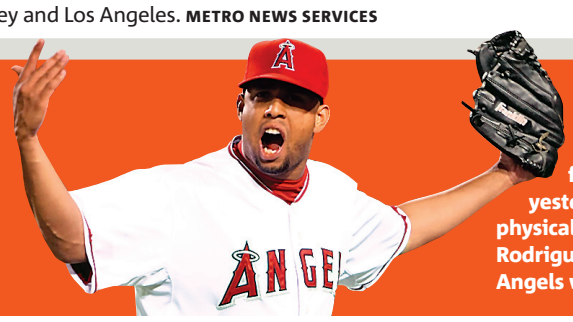
Recession hits NFL
The NFL announced yesterday that it is cutting more than 10 per cent of its staff in response to the downturn in the U.S. economy. The league is eliminating about 150 of its staff of 1,100 in New York, New Jersey and Los Angeles. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports



K-Rod to Mets

The New York Mets have agreed to a three-year deal with free-agent closer Francisco Rodriguez, ESPN reported yesterday. Rodriguez's deal, worth $37 million US, is pending a physical, which the New York Post reports will take place today. Rodriguez broke the Major League saves record last season for the Angels with 62. METRO NEWS SERVICES

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Petitclerc wins Lou Marsh

SPORTS After winning five gold medals at the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games, wheelchair racer Chantal Petitclerc has been awarded the Lou Marsh Trophy as Canada's top athlete this year.

A panel of sports journalists and luminaries from around the country judges the award, named for the former Toronto Star sports editor.

Petitclerc joins Rick Hansen as one of two wheelchair athletes to win the Lou Marsh Trophy.

Competing at Beijing in the T54 class for athletes with different levels of spinal cord injuries and amputations, she won the 200- and 800-metre races within 90 minutes of each other, setting two world records.

She also won the 400 in record time and the 100 before finishing up in the 1,500 with a win by more than one second over her closest rival.

Overall, Petitclerc won 14 golds and 21 total medals over five Olympic games.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canucks get physical

NHL RESULT

Canucks 3 Predators 1

SCOTT RINTOUL
for Metro Vancouver

REUTERS/M. J. MASOTTI JR.

Henrik Sedin checks Vernon Fiddler into the boards last night.

THE SKINNY: Alex Edler converted a beautiful backhand feed from Daniel Sedin on an early third-period power play and Alex Burrows iced the game with an empty-netter as the Canucks won for the second time in three games. Pavol Demitra opened the scoring for Vancouver while Radek Bonk's first goal in 23 games was the only offence the Predators could muster.

THE SAVE: Curtis Sanford flashed his left pad to stop Ryan Suter's blast that would have tied the score on a late Preds powerplay.

THE EXTRA MAN: The Canucks spent more than half of the second period with the man advantage thanks in large part to a seven-minute power play on which they failed to capitalize.

THE BULLIES: Though only credited with 14 hits, the Canucks played one of their most physical games of the season. However, a number of hits were borderline or beyond. Ryan Kesler took a five-minute boarding major, Alex Burrows left his feet to hammer JP Dumont, and Rob Davison knocked Scott Nichol out of the game with a hit the Predators believed to be a headshot.

THE RATING: Physical and competitive hockey, but not many style points. 3 out of 5 stars.

THE NEXT GAME: The Canucks wrap up their seven-game road trip Saturday with a divisional tilt in Edmonton.

Melrose rips Lightning, blames management

NHL While a guest on Toronto's FAN 590 radio station yesterday, ex-Tampa Bay Lightning coach Barry Melrose sounded off on his former club, saying that during his short tenure he dealt with constant interference from the organization.

"I had guys in Tampa who wanted to run the team and I wouldn't let them. I was hired to coach and I coached," Melrose said. "Every day was a constant battle." Melrose was fired less than a month ago, only 16 games into the season. In the 11 games they have played since, Tampa Bay has only won once. When asked if that made him happy, he said, "yeah it does, and any coach who tells you otherwise is a liar," Melrose told the FAN.

"I hope Tampa Bay doesn't win a game in the next year."
Barry Melrose on a Toronto radio station yesterday.

"I hope Tampa Bay doesn't win a game in the next year." Melrose also criticized Lightning forward Steven Stamkos, the first pick in the 2008 draft.

"Steven is not ready for the NHL," Melrose said.

"Right now he's just not strong enough physically to play against defencemen who are 6-3 or 6-4 that can skate as good as him."

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Automotive

A METRO JOINT VENTURE WITH: carguide magazine.com

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Trucking with the times

JIM ROBINSON
for Metro Canada

With a striking new look, the 2009 Dodge Ram full-size pickup truck was reduced an average $2,200 across the board compared to the 2008 model, and then given an average of $2,500 in extra content.

Is Canada ready for a new, full-size pickup truck?

At the launch of the 2009 Dodge Ram, Chrysler Canada president Reid Bigland pointed out, that despite fuel costs, Canadians are still buying 22,000 new big pickups every month.

Dodge, like all manufactures, saw the fuel price surge coming, perhaps not so suddenly, and designed the next generation Ram to meet (they hope) a sea change in how we work and travel.

The 2009 Ram offers 13 per cent more power, nine per cent more torque and a fuel efficiency increase of four per cent. Dodge also lowered the price over the 2008 Ram by an average $2,200 per model and then built in an average of $2,500 in added features.

The 2009 Dodge Ram will be offered in regular cab, Quad Cab and Crew Cab (new to RAM this year) configurations, with three box lengths: eight-foot (regular cab), six-foot-four-inches (regular cab and Quad Cab) and a new-for-2009 box length of five-foot-seven-inches (Ram Crew 1500).

Dodge says they all fit inside a standard-sized garage. The Ram Crew 1500 offers a claimed first-in-segment cargo management system called the RamBox. It is weatherproof, lockable, illuminated and has drainable storage compartments integrated into both fender sides for quick access and convenience. Each box holds up to five cases (120 cans) of 12-ounce beverages. Total capacity is 7.4 cubic feet, slightly more than the capacity of a 55-gallon drum.

There are three engine choices starting with a new-generation 5.7-litre Hemi that produces a claimed best-in-class 390 hp and 407 lb/ft of torque. The middle engine is a 4.7-litre V8 making 310 and 330 lb/ft of torque. Last is a 3.7-litre V6 generating 215 hp and 235 lb/ft of torque. The powertrains came further mixed and matched with four- and five-speed automatic transmissions; part-time and on-demand four-wheel-drive transfer cases; and four axle ratios.

2009 Dodge Ram

Type: Full-size pickup truck
Price: From $25,995 to $42,190
Engine: 3.7-litre, DOHC V6 (215 hp, 235 lb/ft); 4.7-litre OHV V8 (310 hp, 330 lb/ft); 5.7-litre OHV V8 (390 hp, 407 lb/ft.

Highlights

- More fuel efficient
- Many trim levels
- Great traction

There are four trim levels offered: ST, SLT, Sport and Laramie. As you can imagine, there are also thousands of variations in pricing, but for just the rear-drive models they range from $25,995-$30,295 for the ST; SLT, $28,395-$34,190; Sport, $31,895-$37,690 and Laramie, $40-695-$42,190.

And they can be fast too. With the new Hemi, the Dodge Ram R/T (special trim level of the Sport) regular-cab 4x2 model with a short bed and 4:10 gears blasts from 0-60 mph in less about six seconds. That's better than many sportscars I've tested.

It's also one of the safest vehicles on the road, not to mention safest trucks, offering 35 active and passive safety features, including standard front and rear side-curtain air bags with Enhanced Accident Response System, knee bolsters, adjustable rear head restraints, remote keyless entry, seat belt pretensioners, and Anti-lock Brake System, among others.

The interior of the 2009 Ram was totally redone and now features much higher-grade materials.

Despite how fast the Canadian automotive landscape is changing, pickups still account for 16.5 per cent of all vehicles sales in Canada, and that's a number any automaker would be foolish to ignore.

Winter safety on thin ice

SURVEY A recent GMAC Insurance survey in the U.S. revealed many drivers are stumped when it comes to proper safety procedures for winter weather driving.

Of the more than 5,000 licensed drivers surveyed across the nation, GMAC Insurance found several startling facts about driver competency during frozen or snowy conditions:

- 46 per cent were unaware their gas tank should be at least half full in order to continue providing heat in case of an emergency.
- 38 per cent didn't know driving while using cruise control, even in clear conditions, could be dangerous.
- 24 per cent did not know to turn the wheel in the direction of a skid.

One of the most significant misconceptions revealed in the survey was in regards to vehicles equipped with four-wheel drive. While four-wheel drive helps with traction in snow and ice, it does not replace good driving practices and taking the right precautions to stay safe.

Nevertheless, the GMAC Insurance survey showed that 70 per cent of drivers may exhibit a false sense of security when driving in snowy weather if their vehicle was equipped with four-wheel drive.

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Vibe GT shown.

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INCLUDES FREIGHT AND PDI				

- 1.6L DOHC engine
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- CD stereo with MP3 input jack
- 60/40 split-folding rear seat
- Frontal airbags w/passenger sensing system
- Theft deterrent system with immobilizer

★★★★★Highest Possible U.S. Government Frontal Crash Safety Rating△

50 MPG HIGHWAY▲

36/50 mpg 7.9/5.7 L/100km (City/Hwy)▲

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$13,398†	OR	$108** WITH $2,195 DOWN	WITH	0%* FOR 60 MONTHS Effective Finance APR: 8.1%
INCLUDES FREIGHT AND PDI				

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- CD stereo with MP3 input jack
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The 2010 Mazda3 sees a host of changes designed to improve on the outgoing model that was one of the most successful cars in the history of the company.

More Zoom Zoom

Mazda3's feisty spirit alive and well

JIM ROBINSON
for Metro Canada

Imagine you're in the shoes of Yoshiyuki Meada. He's the program manager for the 2010 Mazda3 and his job is to fix something that isn't broken.

One of every three Mazda vehicles sold around the world is a Mazda3. In Canada, the Mazda3 has improved in sales every year since it was introduced in 2003. In fact, 2008 will set another sales record, with people lining up to get a little Zoom Zoom in their lives.

What Meada did was take the overall Mazda3 design concept and keep what was working and refine the rest.

To get everyone on board, he insisted on designers and engineers from Mazda's styling centres visiting each other's countries to talk about the car and learn what consumers in different parts of the world were thinking. His idea was to instill what Mazda calls "the emotion of motion."

Although the 2010 and the current Mazda3 have virtually the same dimensions, much attention was paid to aerodynamics with things like panels under the body to smooth air flow with the car's overall coefficient of drag going from 0.31 down to 0.29.

The biggest visual change is the much-enlarged grille. While it retains the Mazda five-point design, the wide mouth is there, not just for improved cooling, but is an actual part of the aero package.

2010 Mazda3

Type: Compact sedan
Price: Not available
Engine: 2.0-litre DOHC inline four-cylinder; 2.5-litre DOHC inline four-cylinder
HP: 148-167

Highlights

- Front-wheel drive
- Fuel-efficient
- Aerodynamic

The cabin area underwent not just a major redesign with liberal use of soft-touch materials, but the switch to what Mazda calls a Zone Layout.

Instrumentation is placed in zones of importance based on eye movement, the primary ones being the large tachometre on the left and speedometer on the right in pods directly in the line of sight of the driver.

Housed in a second zone is a Multi Information Display (MID) on the centre of the dash and raised 100 mm higher and to the right of the main gauges. Positioned here, it is still in the line of sight. Depending on the model and options, it shows fuel consumption, distance and even a 3.5-inch colour navigation screen.

The four-door sedan tested here will arrive in the early spring along with a five-door Sportback hatch in three levels of trim: GX, GS and GT.

The 2.0-litre, DOHC inline four-cylinder engine that helped Mazda3 sales take off in 2008 is offered on the GX and GS. It produces 148 hp and 135 lb/ft of torque and comes with as standard five-speed automatic transmission or optional five-speed automatic driving the front wheels.

Fuel consumption numbers for the 2.0-litre manual and automatic are 8.1/5.9L/100 km city/highway and 8.6L/5.9L/100 km city/highway respectively.

Pricing will not be announced until early in January but it should be pretty much the same at the 2009, with the base car starting around $17,000.

The interior of the 2010 Mazda3 is much changed, including a second-tier Multi Information Display (MID) at the top of the centre stack.

Notice of Security Alarm System By-Law Regulations

If you own or possess a security alarm system within the city of Vancouver - Whether monitored or not - the following bylaw information applies to you:

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5. A person must not:
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   (b) possess or use a security alarm system without holding an alarm permit for such system issued under this By-law.

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41. Every person who commits an offence of a continuing nature against this By-law is liable to a fine not exceeding $50.00 for each day such offence is continued.

Program Overview: In an effort to reduce false alarms, the City of Vancouver implemented Security Alarm Bylaw No. 7111 on July 5th, 1993. Under the Bylaw **a Permit is mandatory for any premise with an alarm system, whether monitored or not, within the City of Vancouver.** It is an alarm user's responsibility to purchase/renew an alarm permit annually. There are three classifications of Alarm Permits currently priced as follows: Residential - $17.55, Small Commercial (with premises less than 140 square metres in size) - $29.25, and Large Commercial with premises greater than 140 square metres in size) - $58.50.

For more information please contact:
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#165 – 555 W. 12th Avenue (City Square Mall), Vancouver, BC V5Z 3X7
Phone: (604) 871-6150 Fax: (604) 871- 6152
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See your Ford Dealer for complete details or call the Ford Customer Relationship Centre at 1-800-565-3673. *Receive the following price adjustments (delivery allowance) on the cash purchase, purchase finance or lease of the following 2009 model vehicles: [$6000 on Explorer Sport Trac 4x2 and 4x4]/[$4000 on F-250-450 (excl. Chassis Cab), and F-350-550 Chassis Cabs]/[$3000 on Mustang V6, Mustang V8, and Shelby GT500]/[$2500 on Taurus]/[$2000 on Fusion SEL]/[$1500 on Ranger Super Cab 4x4 and 4x2 (excl. XL), Escape XLT V6, and Escape Limited V6]/[$1000 on Fusion SE]/[$500 on Escape XLT I4, and Escape Limited I4]. ‡0% APR purchase financing for 60 months on select 2009 Ford vehicles (excluding Focus S, Mustang V6 & V8, Shelby GT500, Shelby GT500 KR, Taurus, Explorer 4Dr, Explorer Sport Trac 4x2 & 4x4, Escape Hybrid, Expedition, E-Series and F-250 – F-550) for a maximum of 60 months to qualified retail customers, on approved credit from Ford Credit. E.g., $20,000 purchase financed at 0.0% purchase APR for 60 months, monthly payment is $333.33, cost of borrowing is $0 or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is $20,000. This is a sample calculation only. Down payment on purchase financing offers may be required based on approved credit. **Receive the following price adjustment (delivery allowance) on the cash purchase, purchase finance or lease of the following 2008 model vehicles: [$12,000 on F-150 Super Cab 4x2, Super Cab 4x4, Super Crew 4x2 (excl. Lariat), Chip Foose, and Super Crew 4x4 (excl. Lariat)]/[$11,000 on F250-450 and F350-550 Chassis Cabs]/[$10,000 on Expedition, Explorer Sport Trac 4x2 and 4x4]/[$9000 on Fusion SEL, and Taurus X Limited]/[$7500 on Fusion SE, Mustang V8, Shelby GT500, Taurus Limited, Edge Limited, Explorer (4 Dr), Escape XLT V6, Escape Limited V6, Taurus X SEL, and F-150 Regular Cab]/[$7000 on Edge SEL]/[$6000 on Mustang V6, Taurus SEL, Ranger Super Cab 4x4 and 4x2 (excl. XL), and Escape XLT I4]/[$5500 on Ranger Super Cab XL]/[$5000 on Escape XLS]/[$4500 on Focus Sedan & Coupe (excl S)]/[$3500 on Ranger Regular Cab XL and FEL]/[$3000 on Focus Sedan & Coupe S]/[$1500 on E-Series Club Wag. & Van]/[$12,500 on F150 Super Crew Lariat]. †Cash purchase a new 2008 Ford Focus SE 4 Door with automatic transmission / 2009 Ford Fusion SE I4 with automatic transmission / 2008 Ford Escape XLT V6 4x4 / 2009 Ford Flex SEL FWD / 2008 Ford Edge SEL FWD / 2008 Ford Edge SEL AWD for $14,999/$22,499/$21,999/$34,999/$25,999/$27,999 after price adjustment (delivery allowance) of $4,500/$1,000/$7,500/$0 /$7,000/$7,000 deducted. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after purchase price adjustment deducted. ****$0 first two months' payments required on the purchase finance or lease of most new 2008 and 2009 Ford vehicles. Effective December 2, 2008, vehicles must be delivered on or before January 2, 2009. First two months payments will be paid up to a total of $1,000 ($500 per monthly payment). Offer only available to customers who purchase finance or lease through Ford Credit. Offer not available to cash purchase customers. Offer is only available at participating dealers and (OAC) from Ford Credit. Offer is only combinable with offers/incentives in effect at the time of delivery. This program may not be deferred. Some restrictions apply, see participating dealer for details. ††e.g. Lease a new 2009 Ford Flex SEL FWD for a monthly payment of $399 per month based on a lease annual percentage rate (APR) of 1.99% and a 48 month lease and receive up to $500 towards each of the first and second month' lease payments and then for the remaining 46 months of the lease contract, you pay only $399 per month based on an APR of 1.99% over the remaining term from Ford Credit to qualified retail lessees, on approved credit. $3,450 down payment required. Total lease obligation is $21,804 and optional buyout is $14,196 plus applicable taxes. Some conditions and a mileage restriction of 80,000 km over 48 months apply to all lease offers. A charge of 12 cents per km over mileage restriction applies, plus applicable taxes. All lease payments are calculated with no trade-in. $0 security deposit required in example, but may be required. ‡‡e.g. Purchase finance a new 2009 Ford Fusion SE I4 for $20,299 (after price adjustment of $1,000 and down payment of $2,200 deducted) and receive up to $500 towards each of the first and second month's purchase financing payments and then for the remaining 70 months of the 72 month purchase finance contract, purchase finance with 1.99% purchase APR and monthly payments of $299 to qualified retail customers, on approved credit from Ford Credit. Cost of borrowing is $1,253 or APR of 1.99% and total to be repaid is $20,930. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price before deductions of first two payments. All offers on 2008 Ford Focus SE 4 Door with automatic transmission / 2009 Ford Fusion SE I4 with automatic transmission / 2008 Escape XLT V6 4x4 / 2009 Ford Flex SEL FWD / 2008 Ford Edge SEL FWD / 2008 Ford Edge SEL AWD include air tax & freight of $1,250/$1,400/$1,400/$1,400/$1,400/$1,400. All offers exclude licence, insurance, registration, PPSA, administration fees and all applicable taxes. †††Fuel consumption ratings are based on Transport Canada approved test methods. Actual fuel consumption may vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading, driving habits and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. Fuel efficiency figures for the 2008 Ford Focus 2.0L automatic based on the EnerGuide, 2008. Fuel efficiency figures for the 2009 Ford Fusion 2.3L automatic based on Transport Canada approved test methods. Actual Fuel efficiency may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. Distances based on Gas Tank volume of 51L/66L. ‡‡‡Standard on most new Ford vehicles, includes 6-month prepaid subscription. See your Ford of Canada Dealer or contact SIRIUS® at 1-888-539-7474 for more information. "SIRIUS" and the SIRIUS™ dog logo are registered trademarks of SIRIUS Satellite Radio Inc. ***Most 2008/2009 Ford vehicles, excluding 2008/2009 Model LCF, F-650 and F-750, come with a 5 year/100,000 km (whichever occurs first) Powertrain Warranty and full Roadside Assistance benefits together with a 5 year/100,000 km (whichever occurs first) Safety Restraint Warranty. In addition, on all 2008/2009 Model F-SuperDuty vehicles equipped with the diesel engine, the Powertrain warranty is extended to 5 year/160,000 km (whichever occurs first), which equals the Diesel engine warranty. Some conditions and limitations apply. Ask your Ford of Canada dealer for more information on these warranties and coverages. •Some conditions may apply to the Graduate Recognition Program. See Dealer for details. Dealer may sell or lease for less. Limited time offers. Offers may be cancelled or changed at any time without notice. All offers are mutually exclusive and cannot be combined. Dealership may have limited quantities. Dealer trade may be required. Allow 8-10 weeks delivery on 2009 model factory orders. See Dealer for details.

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14 automotive

Nissan Canada has launched a 1.6-litre version of its Versa compact that will have a lower starting price of $12,498.

New Versa on the way

MODEL Nissan Canada has launched a totally repositioned Nissan Versa Sedan, which features a starting price of $12,498 (excluding Freight and PDE charges).

The new Versa Sedan focuses squarely on value and fuel economy, with its standard 107 hp DOHC 16-valve, 1.6-litre, four-cylinder engine delivering responsive performance and a 5.8 L/100km Highway fuel economy rating (with the five-speed manual transmission).

The Versa 1.6 Sedan went on sale at Nissan dealers nationwide Dec. 1.

The Value Option Package includes A/C, power windows, heated power mirrors and remote keyless entry among other features. And, there is no compromise on safety.

The Versa 1.6 Sedan is equipped with six standard airbags, including front-seat and side-curtain airbags.

The new, high-value Versa 1.6 Sedan features a smaller displacement 1.6-litre engine (versus the 1.8-litre on the Hatchback), standard five-speed manual transmission, with a four-speed automatic transmission is also available.

Fuel economy with the five-speed manual is rated at 7.7L/100 km city, 5.8L/100 km highway, and 7.8L/100 km city, 5.9L /100 km highway with the four-speed automatic.

In repositioning Versa for 2009 model year, the 1.6L Sedan joins the five-door Hatchback.

The Hatchback, starting at $13,598, comes with a standard 1.8L engine and is available in both S and SL trims. The Hatchback has a six-speed manual transmission standard and an optional four-speed automatic or an Xtronic CVT is available.

Canadians spend 29 per cent of leisure time online
A new global poll conducted by TNS Canadian Facts found that Canadians spend 29 per cent of their leisure time online, no matter how much spare time they actually have. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Workology

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

The law can stop unilateral pay cuts

WorkplaceLaw

Not all companies have turned to mass layoffs in order to weather the current economic storm. There are other devices: many have turned to temporary layoffs, hiring freezes and slashing salaries in order to reduce overhead and maintain the bottom line. But while employees have no legal entitlement to continued employment, they do retain some basic rights.

National equipment supplier DIGI Canada recently learned this the hard way. When its western regional manager, Douglas Stewart, refused to accept a substantial pay cut, he was fired. Stewart sued and he later succeeded in court.

Having been fired by DIGI earlier in his career, Stewart, a lifer in the industry, knew better than to leave the terms of his employment to chance. When DIGI's president sought to recruit Stewart to resume his old job, Stewart rejected an initial offer but finally agreed to return based on a promise of a three-year contract and a hefty salary.

However, DIGI's president was replaced a year later, and the new boss soon took aim at the contract, requesting that Stewart take a pay cut. But, acting on the advice of legal counsel, Stewart knew that DIGI couldn't unilaterally reduce his pay and he rejected DIGI's entreaties. Finally fed up with Stewart's reluctance to renegotiate the deal, DIGI fired him with 13 months remaining on the initial contract.

Disagreeing over appropriate severance, Stewart and DIGI next met in court asking the judge to decide. Stewart had negotiated a three-year contract. In employment law, employees whose fixed-term contracts are terminated are entitled to be paid for the remainder of the term, unless the contract states otherwise. In reviewing the contract, an Alberta appellate court recently agreed with Stewart that the contract was unambiguous and that his efforts to find another job after he was fired were reasonable.

Employers can't ignore certain fundamental rights:

PAY CUTS: If a contract does not permit it, a salary can't be unilaterally reduced.

LAYOFFS: Without a contractual term or standard authorizing layoffs, employees may be able to treat themselves as dismissed or sue to recoup lost wages during the period of layoff.

SEVERANCE PAY: Severance is how long it would take to find another job. With a depressed economy, an employee can argue that severance should be extended.

CONTRACTS: Written agreements are increasingly being used to reduce basic entitlements or avoid lawsuits altogether.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal; dan@canadaemploymentlawyer.com.

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Southwest slashes flights

Southwest Airlines Co. says it will cut flights as it scales back slightly to deal with the recent dip in travel demand. They're the latest U.S. carrier to to reduce capacity, with a net reduction of 13 roundtrip flights across its system. **REUTERS**

Travel

Advantage files for bankruptcy

Car rental chain Advantage Rent-A-Car Inc. has filed for bankruptcy protection and closed about 40 per cent of its U.S. retail locations, citing a decline in the travel industry as customers cut their travel and discretionary spending. The company said it laid off 440 workers, or almost half its workforce. Advantage said it will continue operating at its remaining locations during the bankruptcy, and is exploring strategic alternatives, including a possible sale or merger. REUTERS

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

Airlines flying into dark skies

TRANSPORTATION Global airlines are heading into their worst business crisis in 50 years with carriers facing possible collapse, revenues tumbling and hundreds of thousands of jobs at risk, the industry body IATA said yesterday.

In a forecast for 2009, it said losses were expected to total $2.5 billion US despite a boost from falling oil prices, with European airlines' deficits soaring tenfold over 2008 to $1 billion US and Asia-Pacific's doubling to $1.1 billion US.

IATA's chief economist, Brian Pearce, said the turbulence was also likely to hit at aircraft manufacturers like Airbus and Boeing as orders were deferred or cancelled.

The forecast for 2009, based on an expected average oil price of $60 US a barrel, was scaled down from the $4.1 billion US IATA had foreseen in September when spot oil prices were around $140 US and looked set to rise.

IATA also cut its estimate for losses this year to $5 billion US from the $5.2 billion US because of lower fuel costs. **REUTERS**

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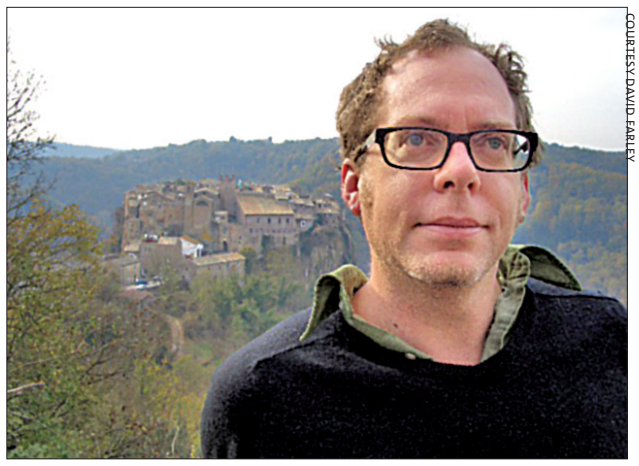

COURTESY DAVID FARLEY

Travel writer David Farley in Calcata, Italy, where he lived while working on his upcoming book, An Irreverent Curiosity.

Jet setting around the world (and getting paid for it), the life of a travel writer is a glamorous one. Trying to get into this coveted and competitive career isn't easy, prompting many to ask: How do I break into the biz? I regularly get e-mails from readers asking for advice. While I do my best to share what I know, it's nice to get a second opinion.

Meet David Farley, a New York-based writer who teaches travel writing at New York University. He has been widely published and is the author of the soon-to-be-released travel book, An Irreverent Curiosity: In Search of the Church's Strangest Relic in Italy's Oddest Town, available next spring.

David shares his expertise on how you can break into the travel writing biz:

TAKE A TRAVEL WRITING COURSE offered by schools in your area.

READ BOOKS ABOUT THE WRITING CRAFT. Travel Writing by Don George and published by Lonely Planet is a great place to start.

READ ARTICLES WRITTEN BY CELEBRATED TRAVEL WRITERS. The best travel writing captures a sense of place. Tap into your five senses to bring the place alive, adding depth and vividness to your descriptions. Add quotes and historical/political context to situate the destination.

IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOUR ARTICLE HAS AN "ANGLE," a unique take on the place. Editors want something that hasn't been done before. Up-and-coming neighborhoods, trends and unique destinations always make for a good angle.

GO ONE STEP BEYOND the realm of an average tourist. Like a reporter, you must talk to people, arrange interviews and get relevant quotes.

MOST TRAVEL EDITORS DON'T WANT TO READ PROPOSALS, they want to see the finished article, already written and polished. Find out the e-mail address of a newspaper's travel editor and send it on. If that editor wants the piece, they'll buy it from you.

PITCH YOUR WORK to local papers, magazines, newsletters and travel websites. Try to get published anywhere and everywhere.

TRAVEL WRITERS DON'T MAKE MUCH MONEY. On assignment, it's nice hotels; at home, it's bare cupboards and ramen noodles. Few people can make a living solely from it. Either stick to your day job and write on the side, or become a full-time writer that focuses on travel, but also writes about other passions — food, art, health or pop culture.

DRIVE IS MOST IMPORTANT. Get into the mindset that nothing is going to stop you from getting what you want. The most successful students I've taught weren't necessarily the most talented in the class; they were the most determined. Good luck and safe travels.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN, and editor of thetraveljunkie.ca.

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Producers honour Milk
The Producers Guild of America have honoured the movie Milk with its Stanley Kramer Award, for its portrayal of the first openly gay man elected to major public office in the U.S. The prize is handed out to movies that take on provocative social issues. **IMDB.COM**

Entertainment

Just a rumour

James Bond star Daniel Craig has brushed off rumours he is set to play the Norse god Thor in a movie adaptation of the Marvel comic book.
IMDB.COM

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

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ROBERT ABELE
for Metro Canada

Will Smith's status as the world's biggest movie star — whether as an earth defender (Independence Day), superhero (Hancock), or last man standing (I Am Legend) — doesn't make it any easier for the actor to handle love scenes.

In his newest film, the drama Seven Pounds, Smith's character — a haunted man seeking redemption — finds romantic solace one night in the arms of a cardiac patient played by Rosario Dawson.

No such solace existed for Smith on the set for those moments.

"Will is shockingly shy about intimacy with strangers," says Dawson, who says her gregarious, hard-working co-star pushed the filming of their kissing scenes for weeks, "to the point where I started getting nervous about my breath."

Will Smith and Rosario Dawson.

And when it came to that day's filming, she noticed Smith revving up for it by loudly proclaiming to himself, "Yeah, we're gonna GET this scene! Whooo! Yeah, I'm ready to go today!"

"I was like, 'You're kind of freakin' me out, like I need a little calm to go into this, some candles and nice music, and you're screaming like you're playing football or something,'" said Dawson, laughing at the memory,

"But it was so sweet. Everybody could tell he was really nervous."

Smith, whose wife of many years is actress Jada Pinkett Smith, smiles good-naturedly in talking about his on-camera skittishness regarding sex.

He explains it by saying that he lives in fear that a woman cast opposite him in those moments will look at her famous married scene partner as an opportunistic groper.

"I need women to be comfortable around me, and doing a love scene with our clothes off just puts me in a defensive space," he said. "But it also hurts the acting if I'm in that space."

The idea, he said, is to get to a comfortable point, "Where a hand can brush up against her and it's not, 'Oh, excuse me.'"

At least his romantic interlude in Seven Pounds was a necessary one for a story whose message of renewal in the face of debilitating trauma has come to mean everything for its relentlessly positive and upbeat star/producer.

"The spring is always coming," says Smith. "And this character didn't realize that. He didn't know that what got broken could be repaired. And I love that transformative power of love, how you've got to be prepared to catch the wave of new life."

Simpsons lead writers guild list

TV The Simpsons, television's longest-running comedy, leads the nominations for the Writers Guild of America's annual broadcasting awards.

The cartoon series was one of five nominees for best comedy series, along with two previous winners from NBC, 30 Rock and The Office, and two cable shows, HBO's Entourage and Showtime's Weeds.

Four episodes of The Simpsons were nominated separately in the category for best animation broadcasts. **REUTERS**

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at metronews.ca/movies

In brief

CRIME Actor Mark Ruffalo's brother has died a week after he was found at his Beverly Hills home with a gunshot wound to the head, police said yesterday. Scott Ruffalo, 39, a hair stylist, was taken off life support Monday night, police said. Ruffalo died hours after a woman wanted by police turned herself in and was charged with attempted murder. **REUTERS**

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primetime 12/10/08	251	308	3 CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	The Santa Clause ★★★ (1994, Comedy) Tim Allen. (CC)				CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	255	358	6 JOY	E! News	The Insider	Secret Millionaire (N) (CC)		2008: Big Stars, Big Stories		True Hollywood Story (CC)		News (N)
	254	-	8 M	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		News: Cantonese Edition		Omni News: Punjabi Edition		Metropia
	250	321	9 CTV	etalk (CC)	Hollywood	Law & Order "Sweetie" (N)		Criminal Minds (N) (CC)		CSI: NY "The Triangle" (N)		News (N)
	-	-	10 OMNI	Scrubs (CC)	According-Jim	The Practice (CC)		Third Watch (CC)		The Daily	Diya (CC)	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Bones (CC)		Bones "The Man in the Mud"		The Guard "Fistful of Rain"		News (N)
	256	389	12 VI	Instant Star	TMZ (N) (CC)	Pushing Daisies (N) (CC)		Private Practice (N) (CC)		(:01) Dirty Sexy Money (N)		News (CC)
	253	359	13 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Little Spirit: Christmas		Stylista "Fashion Show 101"		I Love Money (CC)		EP Daily
	-	-	14 CW	Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	Stylista "Model Behavior"		Stylista "Fashion Show 101"		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds (CC)		CSI: NY "The Triangle" (N)		News (N)
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Little Spirit: Christmas		Life "Canyon Flowers" (N)		Law & Order "Sweetie" (N)		News (N)
	602	568	19 W	Will & Grace	Friends (CC)	Grocery Bag	Maxed Out	Supersize vs. Superskinny		She's Got the Look		Style by Jury
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Pushing Daisies (N) (CC)		Private Practice (N) (CC)		(:01) Dirty Sexy Money (N)		KOMO 4 News
	-	-	23 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	The Great White Hype ★★ (1996) Samuel L. Jackson.				King	Still Standing	Scrubs (CC)
	291	383	27 PBS	JP Patches 50th Anniversary Party				Command Performance				Monarchy
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Secret Millionaire (N) (CC)		Bones "The Man in the Mud"		News (N) (CC)		Family Guy
	-	364	43 PBS	(6:30) The Armenian Genocide		Great Big Sea in Concert (CC)			Suze Orman: Women & Money (CC)			
	296	654	34 SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Punk'd (CC)	South Park	Cheers (CC)	Half & Half	The Insider	Entertainment	Perfect Pullup
	298	653	65 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Stylista "Model Behavior"		Stylista "Fashion Show 101"		KTLA Prime News (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	66 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According-Jim	Sex and-City	Friends (CC)	Will & Grace	My Wife-Kids
	297	652	67 WPX	CW11 News at Ten (N) (CC)		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	Will & Grace	According-Jim	Frasier (CC)	Odd Couple
	199	311	76 STR	News (N)	News		Late Show-Letterman		(:37) Kitchen Nightmares		Late Late Show	
news	502	390	26 NW	Extreme Speed (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		Extreme Speed (CC)		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	(6:00) Ultimate Fight Night (Live)				Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet Connected		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	SportsCentre (Live) (CC)			Off the Record	UEFA Champions League Soccer Porto vs. Arsenal. (Taped)				SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Word Travels	Pilot Guides	Pilot Guides "New Zealand 2"		Don't Forget Your Passport		Adventures	Ed's Up (CC)	Word Travels
	410	403	54 SCR	Score Tonight	NBA Basketball Phoenix Suns at Los Angeles Lakers. (Subject to Blackout)					Final Score	Final Score	Final Score
	417	406	55 SC	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pinks	Pass Time	Am. Thunder	Am. Thunder	Pinks	Pinks Out	Wrecked
	416	409	144 GLF	Footballers	Legends	Gol TV News		Art of Football	Art of Football	Paid Program	Art of Football	Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	Romeo! (CC)	Home Imp.	Fresh Prince	Sabrina-Witch	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline	Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50 TEL	Santa Claus	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	The Critic	Chicken	Lucy Devil
	557	541	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	553	546	53 TRE	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie	Beren. Bears	Babar (CC)	Backyard	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin (CC)	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Into the Wild	Meerkat	Indian School	Indian School	Christmas in Vienna (CC)		Christmas Together		Montreal Jazz
	575	583	20 CMT	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Three Wishes (CC)		Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	Hope & Faith
	570	580	24 MM	Degrassi	Degrassi	PunchMuch		50 Cent: Money and Power		disBand	Born to Be	Spotlight
	600	564	29 H&G	Million Dollar Listing (CC)		Holmes on Homes (CC)		Mansions	The Stagers	Property	Unsellable	$1M Listing
	615	520	31 A&E	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter (CC)		Parking Wars
	628	584	32 SPKE	(6:00) UFC Fight for the Troops (Live)				UFC Fight for the Troops				
	521	560	34 TLC	Solved Opthalmologist. (CC)		Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate Plus 8 (CC)		Solved Opthalmologist. (CC)		Jon & Kate
	616	522	39 SHO	Kink in Hair	Kink in Hair	Durham County (CC)		Billable Hours	G-Spot "Gigi"	The Starter Wife (CC)		House (CC)
	620	523	40 BVO	Arts & Minds	The Achievers	Law & Order "Mega" (CC)		Without a Trace "Moving On"		The Broken Hearts Club ★★ (2000) (CC)		
	601	562	41 SLC	Filthy Rich: Cattle Drive		ET Canada	Matchmaker	Real Housewives of OC		Trading Spouses		Biggest Loser
	520	505	42 DIS	Mayday (CC)		Daily Planet (CC)		MythBusters (CC)		Cash Cab	Destroyed	Mayday (CC)
	522	506	44 HIS	NCIS "Switch" (CC)		Cities of the Underworld		Captain Cook: Obsession		NCIS "Switch" (CC)		Crime Stories
	627	528	45 SPC	Ghost Hunters International		Stargate SG-1 "Tin Man"		Lost "I Do" (CC)		Star Trek: Deep Space Nine		Star Trek
	294	650	47 TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Seinfeld	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	King's Ransom ★ (2005) Anthony Anderson, Jay Mohr. (CC)			
	619	525	48 TROP	Beverly Hills, 90210 (CC)		Reality	What	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	'70s Show	Family Guy
	603	561	52 FN	Top Chef (CC)		Dinner	Dinner	Challenge Candy castles.		Iron Chef America (CC)		Top Chef
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs (CC)		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	House Party	RENO 911!	Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	The Ruins ★★ (2008) Jonathan Tucker. (CC)			UKM: The Ultimate Killing Machine (2006)			Dexter "I Had a Dream"		Disturbia ★★
	581	566	101 MTV	Dance Life	Dance Life	MTV Live	After	A Double Shot of Love (CC)		Dance Life	Dance Life	MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	(6:00) Secret Santa ★★		Doc "Tis the Season" (CC)		Secret Santa ★★ (2003) Jennie Garth, Steve Eckholdt.				Paid Program
	-	-	109 MUL	Matchmaker	Mom's-Upset	Van. Nights	Iranian Pop	Sabor Latino		Hola Que Tal		Patrol World

critics'corner

Criminal Minds
Once a cop, always a cop. And that mind-set might come in handy this week. A BAU case hits close to home for Morgan (Shemar Moore), who was a police officer before joining the team, when a serial killer specifically focuses on members of the police force in Phoenix, Ariz., in "Brothers in Arms." 9 PM on CBS CTV

Little Spirit: Christmas in New York
Tired of the same old animated holiday specials? Here's something new, and it's got Danny DeVito — no, he's not Scrooge. He voices a New York cabby who tells the tale of a young newcomer to the Big Apple who gets separated from his dog. He goes looking for her accompanied by a magical imp, Little Spirit, who introduces him to all the interesting people and cultures New York at holiday time has to offer. Lucy Liu and Brian Williams also lend their voices. 8 PM on CITY

Holloway is going to be a dad
Lost star Josh Holloway is going to be a daddy. The actor and his wife, Yessica, are expecting their first child, due next year. **PEOPLE.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

Friends rely on Smith for advice

MARRIAGE Actor Will Smith is under pressure from his famous friends to make his marriage to wife Jada Pinkett Smith work because they're constantly coming to him for relationship advice, imdb.com reports.

The tight-knit couple are preparing to celebrate their 11th year of married life on Dec. 31. But Smith's famous pals have "terrified" him by marking their union as the golden standard in Hollywood.

"I was with (rapper) Redman the other day (and) he said, 'Man, listen. I've got this relationship that I'm trying to make work, but I'm telling you, if you and Jada don't work, I'm done,'" Smith tells People.com. "That so terrifies me that there are people's lives that I can affect like that just with little stuff, not even having to do anything big. So I don't want to break that ... I might mess something up, and that sorta keeps me in a place where I'm really focused and paying attention, and I just don't want to step wrongly."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Smith defends Grey's bosses

CAREER Actress Brooke Smith has defended her former TV bosses at Grey's Anatomy, insisting she has "no hard feelings" after her lesbian character was written out of the show, imdb.com reports.

Network bosses announced Smith would be axed from the show last month, sparking rumours she was written out of the series in a bid to end her character Dr. Erica Hahn's burgeoning homosexual affair.

Grey's creator Shonda Rhimes refuted the reports, telling Us Weekly, "Brooke Smith was obviously not fired for playing a lesbian. Clearly it's not an issue as we have a lesbian character on the show — Calliope Torres (Sara Ramirez). Unfortunately, we did not find that the magic and chemistry with Brooke's character would sustain in the long run."

Actor Isaiah Washington, who was let go from the show last year, lashed out at his former bosses, calling their decision to cut Smith "disgusting."

But Smith has defended Rhimes, adding, "It's an end of a chapter. It was a good experience. I'd played gay characters before, and I don't think that's going to end. There's no hard feelings. I have other projects now, so it is what it is."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Twain's dating sparks rumours

RELATIONSHIPS Singer Shania Twain has sparked reports she's dating the husband of the woman her ex is alleged to have had an affair with after the mystery man was spotted escorting Twain around New York recently, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Twain split from her husband Robert (Mutt) Lang in May, following his revelation that he was romancing the couple's longtime secretary Marie-Anne Thiebaud, who was the manager of their Swiss estate.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lohan to write of split

PEOPLE Lindsay Lohan is begging the paparazzi to stop asking her if she's split from girlfriend Samantha Ronson, assuring fans she'd write the news on her blog if they ever broke up, imdb.com reports.

Rumours have swirled about the couple's relationship status since they began dating earlier this year.

They have repeatedly denied splitting, and Lohan has once again taken to her MySpace.com blog to "prove all the liars wrong" — less than a week after slamming previous break-up reports.

"(The paparazzi) should just stop asking altogether, once and for all if she and I are broken up because frankly, if we ever, ever did ... I would say it before they could even think of asking ... I'd say it here probably," Lohan wrote.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Anderson outfit shocks crowd

PEOPLE Pamela Anderson stunned onlookers when she arrived at a prestigious art fair wearing just a T-shirt and underwear, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress seemed unaware of the controversy she was causing at the Art Basel Miami Beach fair, and later posed for photographs bending over paintings with her butt in the air.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

I weigh 200: Winfrey

HEALTH In the January's O magazine, Oprah Winfrey confesses that she now weighs 200 pounds and has "fallen off the wagon," usmagazine.com reports.

"I'm mad at myself," writes Winfrey. "I'm embarrassed. I can't believe that after all these years, all the things I know how to do, I'm still talking about my weight. I look at my thinner self and think, 'How did I let this happen again?'"

In the article, Winfrey says she has struggled with an out-of-balance thyroid and the condition made her develop "a fear of working out."

She confessed that she's packed on 40 pounds since she weighed 160 pounds in 2006.

"Yes, you're adding correctly; that means the dreaded 2-0-0," Winfrey says."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jolie spends less on Pitt

PEOPLE It appears even stars are affected by the recession.

In Touch has learned that Angelina Jolie's 45th birthday present to Brad Pitt will be another motorcycle. But this year's base price on the new Ducati is $12,000 US — much less compared to last year's gift that cost a reported $100,000.

Still, Jolie knows what Pitt likes, intouchweekly.com reports.

"Since Angie is always in a dilemma of what to buy Brad, she's getting him the new Ducati Monster 1100S titanium," an insider tells In Touch.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Today Cloudy 9°/ 5°

Thursday Variable 8° / 5°

Friday Rain 90% 6°/ 3°

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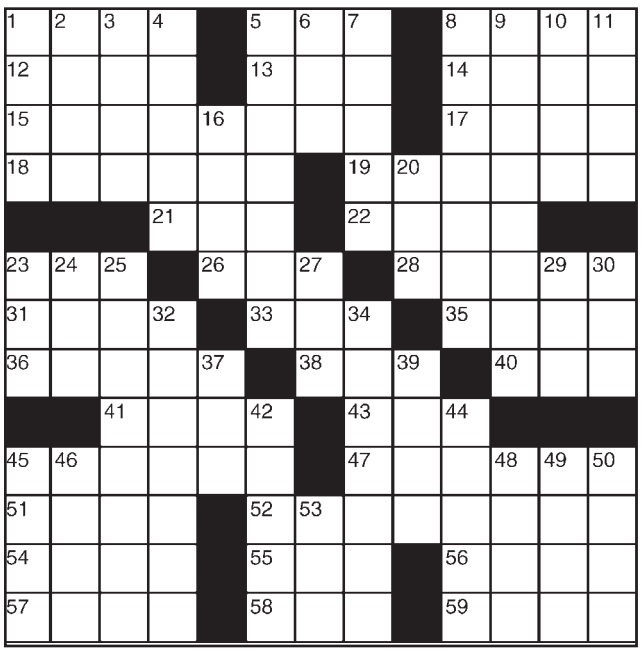
Take Five



Crossword across

1 Malaria symptom
5 Bowl-shaped utensil
8 Vaulted alcove
12 Lion's share
13 Previous to
14 Litigant
15 Outdoor vendor's wagon
17 Scheme
18 Walk leisurely
19 1-Across component
21 Perch
22 Medal earner
23 Chart
26 Advanced deg.
28 Windsor's merry ones
31 Piece of work
33 Evergreen type
35 Literary sleuth Wolfe
36 After-dinner speech?
38 Runic letter (Var.)
40 Liotta or Romano
41 Burden
43 Bud's partner
45 Baffle
47 PC variety
51 Winged
52 Bulletin board accessories
54 Crooned
55 Indivisible
56 Ostriches' kin
57 Otherwise
58 Youngster
59 Leftovers

Crossword down

1 Roadie's burden, in part
2 Toe woe
3 "Back in the —"
4 Group character
5 Rich
6 Bobby of hockey
7 Sailing vessel
8 Headache remedy
9 Sweater type
10 Signet
11 Sea flock
16 Office holder?
20 Chop
23 Unruly bunch
24 Mimic
25 Sleeper cars
27 Morning moisture
29 Historic period
30 Sauce source
32 Cause of great pain
34 Established firmly
37 Owns
39 Ham's dad
42 Station
44 Top
45 Contemptible
46 Hebrew month
48 Opportunity
49 Responsibility
50 "Hey!"
53 Popular card game

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

3	7					5		9
	8	6	9				3	1
1			4	3			6	
			1		3	9	7	
		8		4		1		
	1	3	5		7			
	3			5	2			8
8	2				6	7	4	
6		7					9	2

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

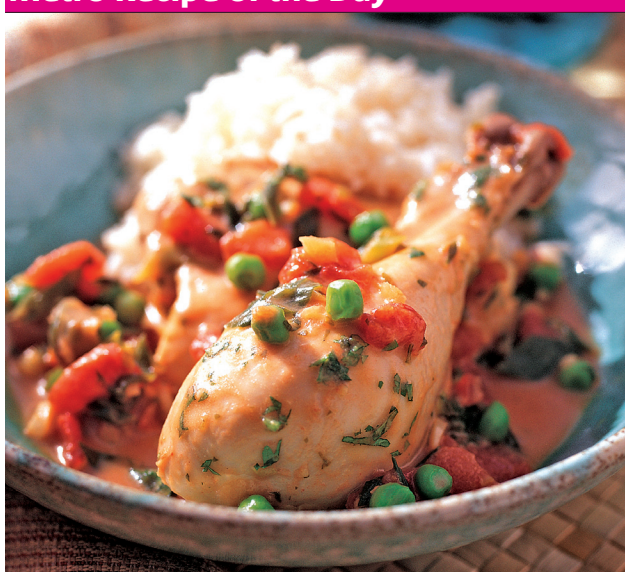
C	A	S	T		B	E	D		D	I	C	K
O	G	L	E		I	D	O		I	D	L	E
C	O	O	L	I	D	G	E		R	E	A	D
A	G	E		F	E	Y		S	T	A	Y	S
			A	F	T		B	U	Y			
W	I	M	P	Y		C	O	M	P	A	C	T
A	V	E	R		W	A	X		O	D	O	R
D	E	N	I	Z	E	N		W	O	O	D	Y
			L	I	D		P	A	L			
D	R	A	F	T		L	E	I		T	K	O
E	U	R	O		T	O	O	L	S	H	E	D
L	E	G	O		E	O	N		H	E	E	D
I	D	O	L		A	M	Y		E	E	L	S

6	2	7	4	9	1	8	5	3
1	3	4	5	7	8	2	9	6
8	5	9	3	2	6	4	1	7
2	8	3	6	5	4	9	7	1
7	9	5	1	8	2	6	3	4
4	6	1	9	3	7	5	8	2
5	4	2	8	1	3	7	6	9
9	1	6	7	4	5	3	2	8
3	7	8	2	6	9	1	4	5

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Chicken with Peas and Cilantro

INGREDIENTS:
3/4 cup (175 mL) canned crushed tomatoes
1/2 cup (125 mL) coconut milk
1/2 cup (125 mL) chopped cilantro
2 tbsp (25 mL) fresh lime juice
2 tbsp (25 mL) soy sauce
1 tbsp (15 mL) light brown sugar
3 scallions, thinly sliced
3 cloves garlic, minced
1 tbsp (15 mL) minced fresh ginger
1 tsp (5 mL) salt
1 whole chicken (about 3 1/2 lbs/2 kg), cut into
8 serving pieces, skin removed
1 cup (250 mL) rice
1 package (10 oz/285 g) frozen peas

METHOD:
1. Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C). In Dutch oven, combine tomatoes, coconut milk, 1/4 cup (50 mL) of cilantro, the lime juice, soy sauce, brown sugar, scallions, garlic, ginger and 1/2 tsp (2 mL) of salt.
2. Add chicken to Dutch oven, turning to coat. Bring mixture to a boil over medium heat. Cover, place in oven, and bake for 40 minutes or until chicken is cooked through.
3. Meanwhile, in medium covered saucepan, bring 2 1/4 cups (550 mL) water to a boil. Add rice and remaining 1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt. Reduce heat to a simmer, cover, and cook 17 minutes or until rice is tender.
4. Stir peas into Dutch oven and cook 5 minutes or until heated through. Stir in remaining 1/4 cup (50 mL) cilantro. Serve sauce and chicken over rice.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Disbelief grows after a heated exchange. Something in the news will result in health benefits. Prepare to get up early tomorrow.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Use a headache to avoid a meeting. A document causes hope to rise up. Share a friend's displeasure with a troublemaker.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Preoccupy yourself with a thriller. You'll wonder if you're under observation. A stranger needs better medication.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A family gathering will come up soon. Keep your eye on a close friend. Be prepared to come to the aid of a depressed person.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Don't lose out in life by lying. Rational people want help with a decision. Don't feel guilty for having an outrageous argument.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Family problems will reveal a desperate wish. Be wise enough to stop when given a warning. Things will be changed before an announcement is made.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A major life change is in the works. Prepare for a zany encounter. Be on your toes if scoundrels are around.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
A hair-raising adventure takes place. An insulted man makes too much of a bad thing. You are subjected to the whims of fate.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Take a careful look at a woman in red. Expect a phone call from a funny stranger. Kindness and compassion will cause a delay.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
A minor crisis will be very amusing to bystanders. Don't hold your breath waiting for a reward. A surprise provides a trivial challenge.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Don't flinch when something wonderful happens. A dear friend is awaiting a divine event. People will talk about the good old days.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Maintain your sense of humour at all times. Unrealistic expectations will instigate a change. Difficult decisions will have to be made.

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Check out **Urban Eats** in tomorrow's Metro for details on how you can win.
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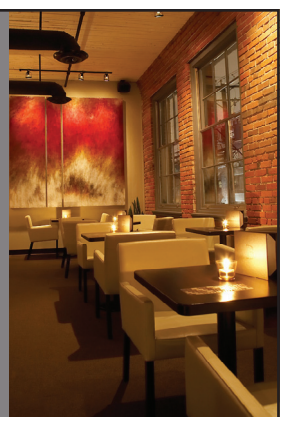

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Canada: ONE-WAY Tango fares from Vancouver. Travel must be completed by November 30, 2009.

CALGARY	EDMONTON	SASKATOON	WINNIPEG	TORONTO	OTTAWA MONTRÉAL	MONCTON HALIFAX	ST. JOHN'S, NL
$94	$104	$124	$149	$189	$199	$239	$264

USA: ONE-WAY Tango Plus fares from Vancouver. Travel must be completed by November 30, 2009.

SAN FRANCISCO	LOS ANGELES	LAS VEGAS	ATLANTA	HOUSTON	BOSTON	NEW YORK	HONOLULU
$111	$124	$134	$147	$153	$171	$180	$223

No fuel surcharge on flights within Canada and to and from the U.S. + Two free checked bags on all flights

Sun: ONE-WAY fares from Vancouver, for travel as indicated below.

NASSAU JAN. 1, 2009–NOV. 30, 2009	MONTEGO BAY JAN. 1, 2009–NOV. 30, 2009	ST. LUCIA JAN. 1, 2009–NOV. 30, 2009	BARBADOS JAN. 1, 2009–NOV. 30, 2009	MEXICO CITY JAN. 1, 2009–NOV. 30, 2009	BERMUDA JAN. 1, 2009–NOV. 30, 2009	CARACAS JAN. 1, 2009–NOV. 30, 2009	GRAND CAYMAN JAN. 8–26, 2009 MARCH 15–30, 2009
$279	$309	$329	$359	$405	$420	$444	$559

International: Fares are EACH WAY from Vancouver and require ROUND-TRIP purchase. Departure dates as indicated below.

SEOUL JAN. 1, 2009–APRIL 30, 2009	LONDON HEATHROW JAN. 1, 2009–APRIL 30, 2009	FRANKFURT[1] MUNICH[1] JAN. 1, 2009–MAY 14, 2009	PARIS JAN. 1, 2009–MAY 14, 2009	BEIJING JAN. 1, 2009–APRIL 30, 2009	ZURICH JAN. 1, 2009–APRIL 30, 2009	HONG KONG JAN. 1, 2009–MAY 24, 2009	SYDNEY, AU FEB. 16, 2009–MARCH 31, 2009
$294	$303	$355	$372	$390	$405	$429	$639

Fares displayed do not include fuel surcharge of $45–$226 each way on Sun and International routes. Select Sun routes do not have a fuel surcharge.

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